

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a surface tracker, comprising the steps of:
inserting an electronic marker in a marker body, the electronic marker being
adapted to emit a locating signal;
sealing the electronic marker within the marker body; and
5 attaching a visual indicator to said marker body, said visual indicator extending
away from said marker body.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the marker body is elongate, and said attaching
step attaches the visual indicator in such a manner that the visual indicator extends away
from the marker body along a longitudinal axis thereof.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the marker body is elongate, the electronic
marker includes a ferrite core assembly, and said inserting step inserts the ferrite core
assembly with a longitudinal axis thereof generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the
marker body.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said sealing step includes the step of screwing
an end cap onto an open end of the marker body.
5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said sealing step further includes the step of
bonding the end cap to the open end of the marker body.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the visual indicator comprises a plurality of
resilient filaments, and said attaching step includes the steps of inserting the filaments in
a hole formed at one end of the marker body, folding the filaments where they pass
through the hole, and securing the filaments to the end of the marker body.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said securing step utilizes heat-shrink tubing to clamp the filaments together at the end of the marker body.

8. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of bundling portions of the filaments in different length sections with flags bearing height/depth indications.

9. An article comprising:

a casing;

an electronic marker sealed in an interior portion of said casing; and

a visual indicator attached to and extending away from said casing.

10. The article of Claim 9 wherein said casing is elongate, and said visual indicator extends away from said casing along a longitudinal axis thereof.

11. The article of Claim 9 wherein said casing is elongate, and said electronic marker includes a ferrite core assembly having a longitudinal axis which is generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said casing.

12. The article of Claim 9 wherein said electronic marker is a passive electronic marker.

13. The article of Claim 9 wherein said casing includes an end cap which seals an open end of said casing.

14. The article of Claim 9 wherein said visual indicator comprises a plurality of resilient filaments extending away from said casing.

15. The article of Claim 14 wherein portions of the filaments are bundled in different length sections with flags bearing height/depth indications.

16. The article of Claim 14 wherein said casing has a tab at one end with a hole in said tab, and said plurality of filaments pass through said hole and are folded about said tab.

17. The article of Claim 16 wherein said filaments are secured to said tab using a heat-shrink tube.

18. A surface tracker comprising:
a tubular marker body having an interior chamber, a lower end, and an upper end;
an electronic marker located inside said interior chamber of said tubular marker
body; and
5 a visual indicator attached to said upper end of said tubular marker body and
extending away from said tubular marker body.

19. The surface tracker of Claim 18 wherein said lower end of said tubular marker
body has an opening, and further comprising an end cap which seals said opening.

20. The surface tracker of Claim 18 wherein said electronic marker is a passive
electronic marker and includes a ferrite core assembly having a longitudinal axis which is
generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said tubular marker body.

21. The surface tracker of Claim 18 wherein said visual indicator comprises a
plurality of resilient filaments.

22. The surface tracker of Claim 21 wherein portions of the filaments are bundled
in different length sections with flags bearing height/depth indications.

23. The surface tracker of Claim 21 wherein said filaments pass through a hole in
a tab portion of said tubular marker body at said upper end thereof, and are folded about
said tab portion to extend away from said tubular marker body and are secured to said tab
portion using a heat-shrink tube.

24. The surface tracker of Claim 21 wherein said filaments extend about six
inches or more from said marker body.

25. A surface tracker which provides electronic locatability and above-ground visual recognition, comprising:

a generally cylindrical marker body having an interior chamber, a lower end, and an upper end, with an opening at said lower end and an integrally formed tab at said upper end, there being a hole formed in said tab;

an end cap which is bonded to and seals said opening;

a passive electronic marker located inside said interior chamber of said marker body, said electronic marker including a ferrite core assembly having a longitudinal axis which is generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said marker body;

a plurality of resilient filaments which pass through said hole in said tab of said marker body, said filaments being folded about said tab to extend away from said marker body; and

means for securing said filaments to said tab.

26. A method of tracking a particular field location, comprising the steps of:

burying a tracker at the particular field location, the tracker having an electronic marker;

determining global positioning satellite (GPS) coordinates of the buried tracker using a GPS receiver located at the particular field location;

recording a log entry indicative of the GPS coordinates;

after said burying, said determining and said recording, establishing a vicinity of the tracker using the log entry; and

locating the tracker by sensing the electronic marker at the vicinity of the tracker with an electronic receiver.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the tracker further has a visual indicator extending away from a marker body, and said burying step generally buries the marker body while leaving the visual indicator above ground.